

EGAN, JOSEPH M., M.S. Antimicrobial Compounds from Endophytic Fungi of Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*). (2016)  
Directed by Dr. Nadja B. Cech 35 pp

With this study, we explored the potential role of fungal endophytes in the antimicrobial activity of the medicinal plant goldenseal, *Hydrastis canadensis* L. (Ranunculaceae). A total of 23 fungal cultures were obtained from surface-sterilized samples of *H. canadensis* roots, leaves and seeds. Eleven secondary metabolites were isolated from these fungal endophytes, five of which had reported antimicrobial activity. *Hydrastis canadensis* plant material from the same harvest was analyzed for the presence of fungal metabolites using liquid chromatography coupled to high resolving power mass spectrometry. One fungal metabolite, the antimicrobial compound alternariol monomethyl ether, was detected both as a metabolite of the fungal endophyte *Alternaria* sp. isolated from *H. canadensis* seeds and as a component of an extract from the *H. canadensis* seed material. The concentration of this compound (991 mg/kg in dry seed material) was in a higher abundance than has previously been reported for metabolites of ecologically important fungal endophytes. The seed extracts themselves, however, possessed slight antimicrobial activity.

ANTIMICROBIAL COMPOUNDS FROM ENDOPHYTIC FUNGI  
OF GOLDENSEAL (*Hydrastis canadensis*)

by

Joseph M. Egan

A Thesis Submitted to  
the Faculty of The Graduate School at  
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Science

Greensboro  
2016

Approved by

---

Committee Chair

## APPROVAL PAGE

This thesis written by Joseph M. Egan has been approved by the following  
Committee of the Faculty of the Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at  
Greensboro.

Committee Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Acceptance by Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Final Oral Examination

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The amount of support I have received from the Cech research group has been always struck me as astounding. By name, I must thank Dr. Daniel Todd, Adam Brown, and Emily Britton for years of support, training, and welcoming friendship, Dr. Huzefa Raja, whose expertise and kind words made this work possible, and Dr. Amninder Kaur, for her time and expertise in structure elucidation, which she has been kind enough to share.

I would also like to thank Dr. Oberlies and Dr. Nadja Cech for their guidance and expertise beyond that of the role of normal faculty. Without them, my development as a scientist would not be near that of the caliber it has become.

I would like to thank my family and friends for their unwavering support throughout the entirety of my studies, having faith in me beyond that of my own. Without the strength I see in them every day, I cannot imagine having the ability to complete my studies. Particularly, my parents Michael and Shannon have taken every opportunity to foster my curiosity and ability and have shown support in every one of my adventures throughout my life.

This study was supported in part by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (Grant R01 AT006860), a component of the National Institutes of Health, and by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center (2011-BRG-1206). Plant samples for this study were provided by William A. Birch.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES .....	v
LIST OF FIGURES .....	vi
CHAPTER	
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1
II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION .....	3
Endophyte Identities and Activities .....	3
Fungal Metabolites .....	5
Presence of Fungal Metabolites in Plant Material .....	7
Antimicrobial Activity of Fungal Metabolites and Botanical Extracts .....	10
III. METHODS .....	13
Acquisition of Plant Material .....	13
Fungal Cultivation and Strain Identification .....	13
Extraction and Preparation .....	14
Identification of Fungal Metabolites .....	15
Quantitative Analysis of Alternariol monomethyl ether .....	16
Evaluation of Antimicrobial Activity .....	17
IV. CONCLUSION .....	18
REFERENCES .....	20
APPENDIX A. SUPPLEMENTARY DATA .....	26

## LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1. Identities of Endophytic Fungi. ....	4
Table 2. MIC of Extracts .....	11
Table 3. Bioactivity of Fungal Extracts against <i>S.aureus</i> at 20 µg/mL and 200 µg/mL. ....	26
Table 4. Compounds from <i>H. canadensis</i> Endophytic Fungi with Reported Biological Activity Indicated. ....	27

## LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1. Metabolites from Endophytic Fungi of <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i> .....	6
Figure 2. Selected Ion Chromatogram for m/z 273.0755 in a Concentrated Fraction From an Extract of <i>H. canadensis</i> Seeds (Analyzed at 1 mg/mL) .....	8
Figure 3. Antimicrobial Activity of a Goldenseal Leaf Extract against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> . ....	28
Figure 4. Antimicrobial Activity of Goldenseal Seed Extract against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> . ....	29
Figure 5. Antimicrobial Activity of Alternariol Monomethylether against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> . ....	30

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on endophytic fungi, which live asymptotically within plant tissues, and the secondary metabolites that they biosynthesize. There has recently been a great deal of interest in endophytic fungi as a source for natural product drug discovery (Strobel, 2003; Suryanarayanan et al., 2009). It has been shown that endophytic fungi can have positive effects on their host plants, including improving drought tolerance, and producing protective compounds (Bush et al., 1997). Bioactive components from endophytic fungi have been shown to possess a number of different activities against human pathogens, and to possess novel cytotoxicity mechanisms (Strobel, 2003). It has also been shown that some fungal endophytes produce the same bioactive components found in botanicals they inhabit, which suggests that the influence of an endophyte may go beyond that of basic protection (El-Elmat et al., 2014; Kusari et al., 2013; Nisa et al., 2015; Stierle et al., 1993).

Because endophytic fungi are present in plant tissues, it has been suggested that compounds originating from endophytes may play a role in the biological activity of botanical extracts. There have been a few cases where this has been shown to be true for endophytic bacteria, which alter the *in vitro* anti-inflammatory activity of *Echinacea* extracts (Pugh et al., 2013; Todd et al., 2015). It is well known that fungal secondary metabolites can demonstrate potent biological effects, which supports the hypothesis that



fungal symbionts could also contribute to or alter the biological activity of botanical extracts. The goal of this study was to explore the potential role of fungal endophytes in the antimicrobial activity of the botanical medicine goldenseal, *Hydrastis canadensis* L. (Ranunculaceae).

It has previously been shown that *H. canadensis* has antimicrobial activity against a number of bacterial pathogens, and this activity has primarily been attributed to the alkaloid berberine (Hwang et al., 2003; Scazzocchio et al., 2001). However, several studies have demonstrated that the antimicrobial activity of goldenseal crude extracts is more pronounced than that of isolated berberine, suggesting that other compounds must also play a role (Ettefagh et al., 2011; Junio et al., 2011). With this study, we sought to isolate and identify fungal endophytes from *H. canadensis* plant material and determine whether their metabolites contribute to the antimicrobial activity of goldenseal botanical extracts.

## CHAPTER II

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### **Endophyte Identities and Activities**

Endophytic fungi, a total of 23 isolates, were cultured and identified from *Hydrastis canadensis*. The fungi were identified based on fragments of complete ITSrDNA; approximately 600-650 bp. Five isolates were identified as *Alternaria* sp., six as *Colletotrichum fioriniae*, three as *Diaporthe eres*, four as *Diaporthe* sp., two as *Sordariomycete* sp., one as *Magnaportheales* sp., one as *Phoma* sp., and one as *Pyrenocheta cava* (Table 1). A number of the fungal extracts possessed marked antimicrobial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, with the most pronounced activity observed for *Alternaria* sp. (Table 3).

**Table 1. Identities of Endophytic Fungi. G numbers were assigned for in house identification, and OTU identification was performed via ITS rDNA sequencing**

G#	OTU identification	Species identification of most homologous sequence from GenBank based on BLAST search*	Origin from Plant source	Reference
G09	<i>Diaporthe eres</i>	<i>Diaporthe eres</i> (= <i>Diaporthe cotonesteri</i> ; NR_119726)	Leaf	(Udayanga et al., 2014)
G10	<i>Diaporthe</i> sp.	<i>Diaporthe terebinthifolii</i> (NR_111862)	Leaf	(Gomes et al., 2013)
G11	<i>Sordariomycete</i> sp. ( <i>Xylariales</i> )	<i>Sordariomycete</i> sp. NC1024 (JQ761762)	Leaf	(U'Ren et al., 2012)
G12	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i> (NR_117474, EF464594) (JN709486)	Stem	(Damm et al., 2012; Shivas and Yu, 2009)
G13	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	<i>Alternaria daucifolii</i> (KC584193); <i>Alternaria eichhorniae</i> (NR_111832)	Stem	(Woudenberg et al., 2013)
G14	<i>Diaporthe eres</i>	<i>Diaporthe eres</i> (= <i>Diaporthe cotonesteri</i> ; NR_119726)	Stem	(Udayanga et al., 2014)
G15	<i>Diaporthe eres</i>	<i>Diaporthe eres</i> (= <i>Diaporthe cotonesteri</i> ; NR_119726)	Stem	(Udayanga et al., 2014)
G16	<i>Diaporthe</i> sp.	<i>Diaporthe eucalyptorum</i> (NR_120157)	Root	(Crous et al., 2012)
G17	<i>Diaporthe</i> sp.	<i>Diaporthe eucalyptorum</i> (NR_120157)	Root	(Crous et al., 2012)
G22	<i>Phoma</i> sp.	<i>Phoma bellidis</i> (GU237904)	Leaf	(Aveskamp et al., 2010)
G23	<i>Magnaporthales</i> sp.	<i>Mycleptodiscus terrestris</i> (JN711860)	Root	(Koo et al., 2012)
G28	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	<i>Alternaria daucifolii</i> (KC584193); <i>Alternaria eichhorniae</i> (NR_111832)	Seed	(Woudenberg et al., 2013)
G29	<i>Diaporthe</i> sp.	<i>Diaporthe terebinthifolii</i> (NR_111862)	Seed	(Gomes et al., 2013)
G30	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i> (NR_117474, EF464594) (JN709486)	Seed	(Damm et al., 2012; Shivas and Yu, 2009)
G31	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	<i>Alternaria daucifolii</i> (KC584193); <i>Alternaria eichhorniae</i> (NR_111832)	Seed	(Woudenberg et al., 2013)
G33	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	<i>Alternaria daucifolii</i> (KC584193); <i>Alternaria eichhorniae</i> (NR_111832)	Seed	(Woudenberg et al., 2013)
G34	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i> (NR_117474, EF464594) (JN709486)	Seed	(Damm et al., 2012; Shivas and Yu, 2009)
G35	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i> (NR_117474, EF464594) (JN709486)	Seed	(Damm et al., 2012; Shivas and Yu, 2009)
G36	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	<i>Alternaria daucifolii</i> (KC584193); <i>Alternaria eichhorniae</i> (NR_111832)	Seed	(Woudenberg et al., 2013)
G38	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i> (NR_117474, EF464594) (JN709486)	Seed	(Damm et al., 2012; Shivas and Yu, 2009)
G39	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i> (NR_117474, EF464594) (JN709486)	Seed	(Damm et al., 2012; Shivas and Yu, 2009)
G41	<i>Pyrenochaeta</i> sp.	<i>Pyrenochaeta</i> sp. (EU885415)	Leaf	(Ferrer et al., 2009)
G42	<i>Sordariomycete</i> sp. ( <i>Xylariales</i> )	<i>Sordariomycete</i> sp. NC1024 (JQ761762)	Leaf	(U'Ren et al., 2012)

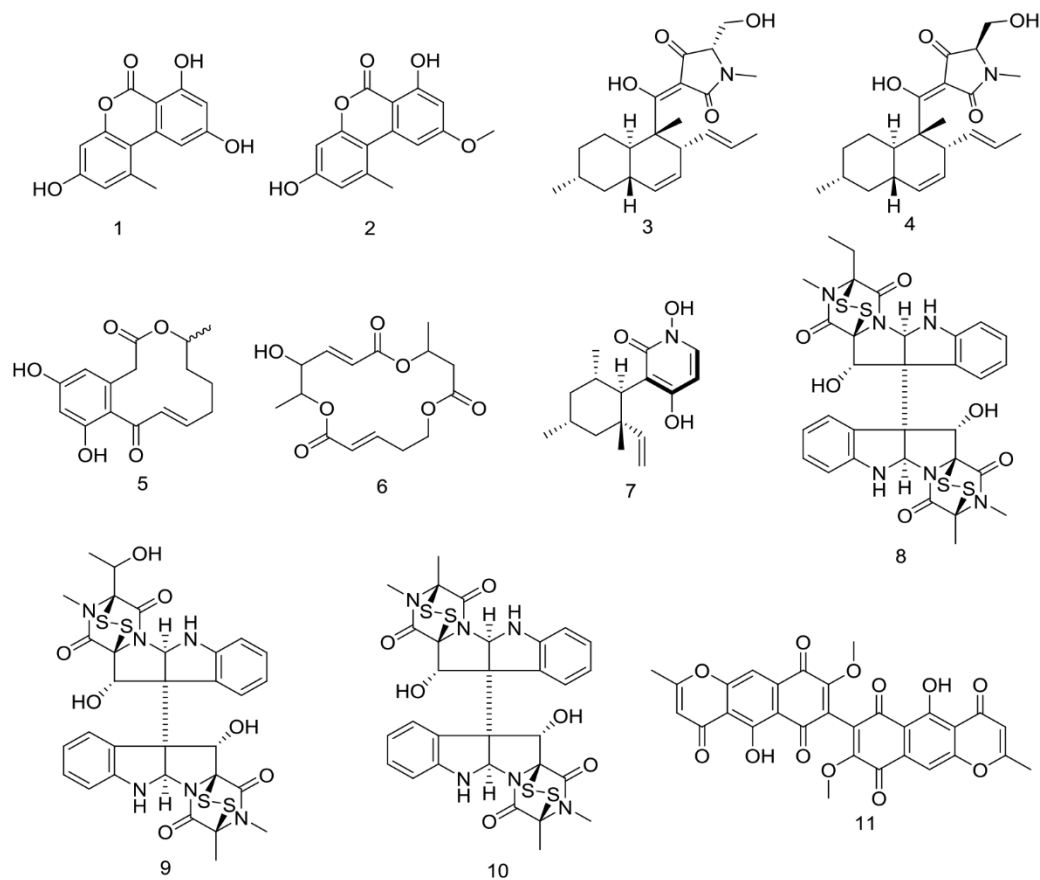
\*Fungal endophyte OTUs were tentatively assigned to either genus or species by matching the most homologous sequences in GenBank by BLAST search. Mainly

authentic sequences were used for assigning OTUs preferentially from type or other authentic, and annotated cultures generated by taxonomic specialist published in high impact factor Mycology journals. When multiple species were found to have high sequence similarity, or when <97% sequence homology was found with a published authentic sequence for which a culture was deposited in a public culture collection, we choose to take a more conservative approach and use only the genus, family, order, class name for OTU assignment (see Raja et al., 2015)

### **Fungal Metabolites**

A total of eleven secondary metabolites, all of which are known compounds, were identified from the fungal isolates (Figure 1, Table 4). The compounds alternariol (**1**), alternariol monomethyl ether (**2**), 5'epi-equisetin (**3**) equisetin (**4**), 10-11 dehydrocurvularin (**5**), macrosphelide A (**6**), and cordipyridone A (**7**) , were isolated with chromatographic approaches and their spectroscopic data (accurate mass, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and <sup>13</sup>C NMR) matched literature reports (Table 4). The remaining compounds, Sch 52901 (**8**), Sch 52900 (**9**), Verticillin A (**10**), Aurofusarin (**11**) were identified by comparison of LC-MS data with a library of previously isolated fungal metabolites (El-Elimat et al., 2013a; Figueroa et al., 2014).

**Figure 1. Metabolites from Endophytic Fungi of *Hydrastis canadensis*.**

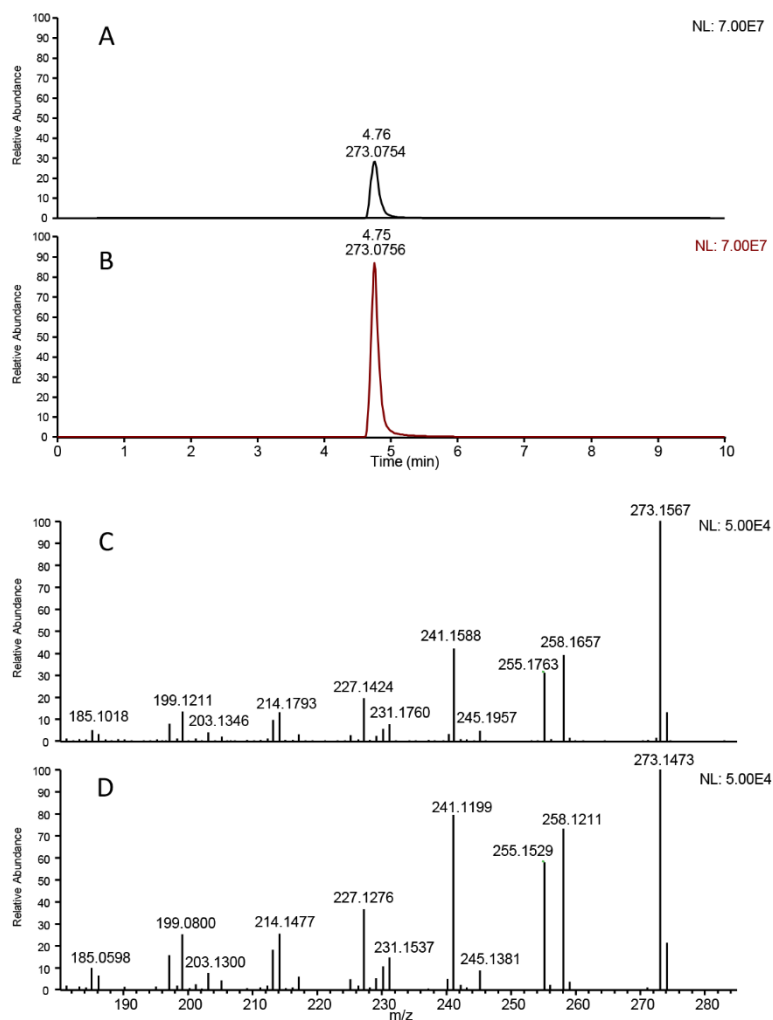


Isolated metabolites, Alternariol (1), Alternariol monomethyl ether (2), 5'-epiquisetin (3), Equisetin (4), 10-11 Didehydrocurvularin (5), Macrospheptide A (6), Cordypyridone A (7), were found to be >95% Pure by UV/Vis. Metabolites Sch 52901 (8), Sch 52900 (9), Verticillin A (10), Aurofusarin (11) were verified via UPLC-MS/MS dereplication against an in-house database.

### **Presence of Fungal Metabolites in Plant Material**

Of the eleven metabolites identified from the fungal endophytes, one compound, alternariol monomethyl ether (**2**), was detected in a botanical extract with the methods employed here. Retention time, accurate mass ( $[M+H]^+$ , 273.0754, calcd for  $C_{15}H_{13}O_5^+$ , 273.0763), and MS-MS fragmentation pattern for the putative alternariol monomethyl ether ion in the extract matched that of isolated alternariol monomethyl ether (Figure 2). The alternariol monomethyl ether was detected in two adjacent normal phase chromatography fractions of a seed extract from *H. canadensis*. This compound was absent from other fractions of the same extract and from blank injections conducted before each extract analysis. Additionally, extracts from the other plant parts of *H. canadensis* did not contain detectable levels of alternariol monomethyl ether. Finally, alternariol monomethyl ether was also absent from another collection of *H. canadensis* seeds, which were harvested from the same plot but at a later date.

**Figure 2. Selected Ion Chromatogram for m/z 273.0755 in a Concentrated Fraction From an Extract of *H. canadensis* Seeds (Analyzed at 1mg/mL)**



(A) and isolated alternariol monomethyl ether from *Alternaria* sp. at a concentration of 1mg/mL (B). MS-MS fragmentation patterns for the precursor ion at m/z 273.0754 are in excellent agreement between the compound detected in the plant material (C) and isolated alternariol monomethyl ether (D).

Consistent with the presence of alternariol monomethyl ether in the botanical seed extract, this compound was also isolated from two *H. canadensis* seed endophytes (*Alternaria* sp., G13 and G31, Table 1). Interestingly, *Alternaria* spp. are known to exist both as endophytes and plant pathogens (Woudenberg et al., 2013). Thus, it is possible that this fungus inhabits *H. canadensis* seeds as a means of transmission to *H. canadensis* seedlings. At the same time, the fungus may confer a protective effect on the seeds by producing antimicrobial compounds. Consistent with these observations, *Alternaria* spp. were identified in collections of goldenseal from the same plot over a multiyear time course. A collection done on 6/28/2012 provided an additional case of *Alternaria* sp (G275) being identified from the seed material. ITS sequencing placed this strain of *Alternaria* sp (G275) as being highly similar to the *Alternaria* sp (G31) identified in the initial collection. Furthermore, a third collection of goldenseal from this plot done on 6/11/2015 yielded an endophyte from the stem segments that was a producer of alternariol monomethyl ether. This endophyte was noted as being morphologically similar to an *Alternaria* sp. and sequencing is currently being done to confirm the identity of the species. Additional efforts are underway for the characterization and identification of fungal endophytes from the collections done on 6/28/2012 and 6/11/2016.



### **Antimicrobial Activity of Fungal Metabolites and Botanical Extracts**

To explore the potential relevance of alternariol monomethyl ether to the biological activity of *H. canadensis*, antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus* was measured for all of the botanical extracts and for isolated alternariol monomethyl ether. *Staphylococcus aureus* was chosen as a test case for this study because it is a common Gram-positive bacterial pathogen (Kaatz and Seo, 1995). As demonstrated in Table 2, all of the botanical extracts demonstrated weak antimicrobial activity, with minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of  $\geq 300 \mu\text{g/mL}$ , and  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values of  $\geq 3 \mu\text{g/mL}$ . Purified alternariol monomethyl ether was slightly more active as an antimicrobial than the botanical extracts, with an MIC of  $75 \mu\text{g/mL}$ .

**Table 2. MIC of Extracts**

Sample	MIC
Aerial extract	200 µg/mL
Seed extract	> 200 µg/mL
berberine	75 µg/mL
alternariol monomethyl ether	75 µg/mL

a. MIC is defined as the concentration that caused OD<sub>600</sub> to be reduced by  $\geq 95\%$ .

b. Concentration is expressed as µg/mL of plant extract per mL of assay well volume.

The results for quantitative analysis of alternariol monomethyl ether in the botanical extracts provide some context for the findings in Table 2. This compound was found only in a purified fraction of the *H. canadensis* seed extract, and based on the concentration in this extract, the back-calculated concentration of alternariol monomethyl ether in the original extract was found to be 991 ppm (expressed as mg of alternariol monomethyl ether per Kg of plant material). At the highest concentration of the seed extract tested in the bioassay (200 µg/mL, expressed as mg extract per L assay volume), this equates to an assay concentration of only 0.1982 µg/mL alternariol monomethyl ether, considerably below the observed MIC of 75 µg/mL for this compound. Thus, it is little surprise that the seed extract did not display marked antimicrobial activity (Table 3). However, it is worth noting that many of the fungal endophytes isolated as part of this study possessed antimicrobial activity (Table 3), presumably due to the presence of other antimicrobial metabolites. It is entirely possible that the combined effect of multiple low-

level antimicrobial fungal metabolites could contribute to the overall activity of a botanical extract. Further studies would be necessary to evaluate this possibility.

The detection of alternariol monomethyl ether in *H. canadensis* seeds suggests that the presence of the fungus may provide some benefit to the plant. Quantitative analysis of the seed extract indicated that alternariol monomethyl ether was present at a concentration of approximately 0.072 µg/mL in the extract of the seed material (36% of 0.2 µg/mL extract), which equates to 991 ppm in the *H. canadensis* seeds. This concentration is above that reported for metabolites known to be ecologically important, such as the ergot and loline alkaloids produced by fungal endophytes of native grasses. Ergot and loline alkaloid alkaloids help protect grasses from insect herbivores (Bush et al., 1997). In a similar fashion, perhaps the presence of antimicrobial fungal metabolites in *H. canadensis* seeds helps protect from plant bacterial pathogens. Exploration of this hypothesis would be another interesting avenue of further study.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **METHODS**

#### **Acquisition of Plant Material**

Plant material was harvested from a cultivated plot in Hendersonville, NC (N35°24.2770, W 082°20.9930) on 07/11/2011 and a voucher was deposited in the University of North Carolina Herbarium (accession number NCU 583414). Additional collections were made on 6/28/2012 and 6/11/2015 from the same plot for further analysis. For extraction, directly from the plant, the material was allowed to air dry until crisp. Leaves, roots, stems and seeds were separated and ground to a fine powder using a Thomas Wiley Mini-Mill.

#### **Fungal Cultivation and Strain Identification**

Fresh plant samples were surface sterilized as described previously (Raja et al., 2015). A total of 320 segments were plated, which included 100 stem segments; 100 leaves; 70 root segments; and 50 seeds. All fungal endophyte cultures that emerged from goldenseal plant parts are maintained on Potato Dextrose Agar; Difco (PDA) agar slants at 9°C at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Fungal Culture Collection. A total of 23 fungi were cultured from tissues of *H. canadensis* (collected on July 11 2011) and were grown on a rice solid-state

fermentation medium, as previously described (Raja et al., 2015). All rice cultures were allowed to grow for 14-21 days prior to chemical extraction.

For molecular identification of fungal endophytes isolated from goldenseal, the internal transcribed spacer region of the ribosomal RNA gene (ITS) was sequenced using protocols outlined previously (Raja et al. 2015) and OTU designations as surrogates for species identifications were made with BLAST search tool utilizing only authenticated, published sequences in NCBI GenBank using 98% identity (Raja et al., 2015; Schoch et al., 2014). In addition, phylogenetic analysis of the ITS region using Maximum Likelihood was employed to confirm the ITS phylogeny of isolated strains (Data not shown). The ITS sequences from all strains were deposited in GenBank and are listed in Table 1.

### **Extraction and Preparation**

Fungal material and botanical extracts were extracted in 1:1 methanol:chloroform and subjected to liquid-liquid partitioning using previously described methods (El-Elmat et al., 2015; Kaur et al., 2016; Kellogg et al., 2016; Raja et al., 2015), resulting in a chloroform, aqueous, and hexane partitions. The chloroform partitions were of primary interest and used for further investigations.

### **Identification of Fungal Metabolites**

Fungal extracts were analyzed using ultra performance liquid chromatography (Acquity UPLC, Waters) coupled to high resolving power tandem mass spectrometry (LTQ Orbitrap XL, Thermo) (LC-MS-MS) with previously published methods (El-Elimat et al., 2013a). The retention time, accurate mass, and fragmentation spectrum for each ion detected were compared to a library of LC-MS data for 262 fungal metabolites to identify known compounds (El-Elimat et al., 2013a). Compounds that were not represented in the existing fungal library were isolated and characterized via several rounds of flash chromatography on a Combiflash Rf system (Teledyne-ISCO, Lincoln, NE, USA) and high performance liquid chromatography on the Varian HPLC system (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA), and structures for pure compounds were solved based on NMR data (Joel ECS 400Mhz, Joel ECA 500Hhz, Varian 700 MHz) and accurate mass measurements, as described previously (Raja et al., 2015). For each isolated compound, NMR and accurate mass data matched literature reports (Table 4).

The same method used to collect LC-MS-MS data of fungal extracts was also applied to botanical extracts from *H. canadensis*. To determine if fungal metabolites were detectable in the botanical extracts, the resulting LC-MS data were filtered for the  $m/z$  value of the  $[M+H]^+$  ion of each fungal metabolite. A 5 ppm isolation window was used. For identification, comparisons were made between retention time, accurate mass, and fragmentation pattern of any ion present in both the botanical and fungal extracts. Care was taken to ensure that any fungal metabolites identified in the extracts were not a

result of accidental contamination from other fungal samples. Multiple blank injections were conducted between the analysis of each sample, and these blank injections were scrutinized to rule out carry-over.

### **Quantitative Analysis of Alternariol monomethyl ether**

A stock solution of alternariol monomethyl ether isolated from *Alternaria* sp. (Table 4) was prepared in 50:50 methanol dioxane at a concentration of 1 µg/mL. The identity of this compound was verified by NMR, and its purity was determined to be >95% based on UPLC (Kellogg et al., 2016). Calibration solutions were prepared from the stock solution via serial dilution over a concentration range of 0.2 mg/mL to 2 ng/mL. These solutions were analyzed using the same LC-MS-MS method applied to the extracts, as described previously (El-Elimat et al., 2013a). A calibration curve was calculated as peak area for the selected  $[M+H]^+$  ion for alternariol monomethyl ether ( $m/z$  273.0755) versus concentration, and alternariol monomethyl ether concentration was determined in the fungal and botanical extracts based on the best-fit line for this calibration curve.

### **Evaluation of Antimicrobial Activity**

Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (Ferraro, 2000) methods for broth microdilution assays were employed to evaluate the antimicrobial activity of all fungal and botanical extracts, as well as the isolated alternariol monomethyl ether. Activity was evaluated against *Staphylococcus aureus* strain SA1199 (Kaatz and Seo, 1995). The known antimicrobial compound berberine served as a positive control for these experiments (Junio et al., 2011). All samples were tested in triplicate with a final DMSO content of 2% in each well. Growth was measured based on absorbance measurements at 600 nm (OD<sub>600</sub>). Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was defined as concentration at which the mean OD<sub>600</sub> of the test wells was reduced by  $\geq 95\%$ .



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

The investigation into the presence of fungal components in a botanical medicine has shown that although the fungal metabolites can be detected in the original plant material. However, the concentration that they are present in is lower than what would be expected to directly contribute to the antimicrobial activity of the plant. Nonetheless, the concentration of alternariol monomethylether is higher than concentrations proven to be ecologically important for other fungal endophyte secondary metabolites, such as that of loline alkaloids, present in some grazing grasses. The findings of this study suggest that the fungal secondary metabolites found in these samples may offer some selective advantage to the botanical. The findings that *Alternaria* sp. is found in multiple collections of *H. canadensis* over a multi-year time course supports this hypothesis.

Additionally, of the 23 fungal cultures investigated, many proved to be antimicrobial against *S. aureus*, even if the compounds responsible could not be isolated. Of the 11 compounds isolated and characterized, 5 had published antimicrobial activity, and all had at least some published bioactivity. Therefore, investigations into fungal endophytes still show great promise for uncovering bioactive compounds.

Beyond this study, it is probable that other components that were not identified previously could also overlap between the fungal endophytes and the botanicals that they

inhabit. Further investigations could shed additional insights into the importance of fungal secondary metabolites for the host plants they inhabit.

## REFERENCES

- Amin, A., Subbaiah, T., Abbasi, K., 1969. Berberine sulfate: antimicrobial activity, bioassay, and mode of action. *Canadian journal of microbiology* 15, 1067–1076.
- Aveskamp, M.M., De Gruyter, J., Woudenberg, J., Verkley, G., Crous, P.W., 2010. Highlights of the *Didymellaceae*: a polyphasic approach to characterise *Phoma* and related pleosporalean genera. *Studies in Mycology* 65, 1–60.
- Bensassi, F., Gallerne, C., Hajlaoui, M.R., Bacha, H., Lemaire, C., 2011. Mechanism of alternariol monomethyl ether-induced mitochondrial apoptosis in human colon carcinoma cells. *Toxicology* 290, 230–240.
- Burmeister, H., Bennett, G., Vesonder, R., Hesseltine, C., 1974. Antibiotic produced by *Fusarium equiseti* NRRL 5537. *Antimicrobial agents and chemotherapy* 5, 634–639.
- Bush, L.P., Wilkinson, H.H., Schardl, C.L., 1997. Bioprotective Alkaloids of Grass-Fungal Endophyte Symbioses. *Plant Physiology* 114, 1–7.
- Cai, P., Smith, D., Cunningham, B., Brown-Shimer, S., Katz, B., Pearce, C., Venables, D., Houck, D., 1999. 8-Methyl-pyridoxatin: A novel N-hydroxy pyridone from fungus OS-F61800 that induces erythropoietin in human cells. *Journal of natural products* 62, 397–399.
- Černáková, M., Košťálová, D., 2002. Antimicrobial activity of berberine—a constituent of *Mahonia aquifolium*. *Folia microbiologica* 47, 375–378.
- Chu, M., Truumees, I., Rothofsky, M.L., Patel, M.G., Gentile, F., Das, P.R., Puar, M.S., Lin, S.L., 1995. Inhibition of c-fos proto-oncogene induction by Sch 52900 and Sch 52901, novel diketopiperazines produced by *Gliocladium sp.* *The Journal of antibiotics* 48, 1440–1445.

- Crous, P., Summerell, B., Shivas, R., Burgess, T., Decock, C., Dreyer, L., Granke, L., Guest, D., Hardy, G.S., Hausbeck, M., 2012. Fungal Planet description sheets: 107–127. *Persoonia-Molecular Phylogeny and Evolution of Fungi* 28, 138–182.
- Damm, U., Cannon, P., Woudenberg, J., Crous, P., 2012. The *Colletotrichum acutatum* species complex. *Studies in Mycology* 73, 37–113.
- Dvorska, J.E., Surai, P.F., Speake, B.K., Sparks, N.H.C., 2002. Antioxidant systems of the developing quail embryo are compromised by mycotoxin aurofusarin. *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part C: Toxicology & Pharmacology* 131, 197–205. doi:10.1016/S1532-0456(02)00006-6
- El-Elimat, T., Figueroa, M., Ehrmann, B.M., Cech, N.B., Pearce, C.J., Oberlies, N.H., 2013b. High-Resolution MS, MS/MS, and UV Database of Fungal Secondary Metabolites as a Dereplication Protocol for Bioactive Natural Products. *J. Nat. Prod.* 76, 1709–1716. doi:10.1021/np4004307
- El-Elimat, T., Figueroa, M., Raja, H.A., Graf, T.N., Swanson, S.M., Falkinham, J.O., Wani, M.C., Pearce, C.J., Oberlies, N.H., 2015. Biosynthetically distinct cytotoxic polyketides from *setophoma terrestris*. *European journal of organic chemistry* 2015, 109–121.
- El-Elimat, T., Raja, H.A., Graf, T.N., Faeth, S.H., Cech, N.B., Oberlies, N.H., 2014. Flavonolignans from *Aspergillus iizukae*, a Fungal Endophyte of Milk Thistle (*Silybum marianum*). *J. Nat. Prod.* 77, 193–199. doi:10.1021/np400955q
- Ettefagh, K.A., Burns, J.T., Junio, H.A., Kaatz, G.W., Cech, N.B., 2011. Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis* L.) extracts synergistically enhance the antibacterial activity of berberine via efflux pump inhibition. *Planta medica* 77, 835–840. doi:10.1055/s-0030-1250606
- Ferraro, M., 2000. National committee for clinical laboratory standards methods for dilution antimicrobial susceptibility tests for bacteria that grow aerobically: approved standard. National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards, Wayne, PA 36.

- Ferrer, C., Pérez-Santonja, J.J., Rodríguez, A.E., Colom, M.F., Gené, J., Alio, J.L., Verkley, G.J., Guarro, J., 2009. New *Pyrenochaeta* species causing keratitis. *Journal of clinical microbiology* 47, 1596–1598.
- Figuerola, M., Jarmusch, A.K., Raja, H.A., El-Elmat, T., Kavanaugh, J.S., Horswill, A.R., Cooks, R.G., Cech, N.B., Oberlies, N.H., 2014. Polyhydroxyanthraquinones as Quorum Sensing Inhibitors from the Guttates of *Penicillium restrictum* and Their Analysis by Desorption Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry. *J. Nat. Prod.* 77, 1351–1358. doi:10.1021/np5000704
- Gomes, R., Glienke, C., Videira, S., Lombard, L., Groenewald, J., Crous, P., 2013. *Diaporthe*: a genus of endophytic, saprobic and plant pathogenic fungi. *Persoonia-Molecular Phylogeny and Evolution of Fungi* 31, 1–41.
- Hwang, B.Y., Roberts, S.K., Chadwick, L.R., Wu, C.D., Kinghorn, A.D., 2003. Antimicrobial constituents from goldenseal (the Rhizomes of *Hydrastis canadensis*) against selected oral pathogens. *Planta medica* 69, 623–627.
- Hyeon, S.-B., Ozaki, A., Suzuki, A., Tamura, S., 1976. Isolation of  $\alpha$   $\beta$ -Dehydrocurvularin and  $\beta$ -Hydroxycurvularin from *Alternaria tomato* as Sporulation-suppressing Factors. *Agricultural and Biological Chemistry* 40, 1663–1664.
- Junio, H.A., Sy-Cordero, A.A., Ettetfagh, K.A., Burns, J.T., Micko, K.T., Graf, T.N., Richter, S.J., Cannon, R.E., Oberlies, N.H., Cech, N.B., 2011. Synergy-directed fractionation of botanical medicines: a case study with goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*). *Journal of natural products* 74, 1621–1629.
- Kaatz, G.W., Seo, S.M., 1995. Inducible NorA-mediated multidrug resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* 39, 2650–2655.
- Katagiri, K., Sato, K., Hayakawah, S., Matsushima, T., Minato, H., 1970. Verticillin A, a new antibiotic from *Verticillium* sp. *The Journal of antibiotics* 23, 420–422.
- Kaur, A., Raja, H.A., Deep, G., Agarwal, R., Oberlies, N.H., 2016. Pannorin B, a new naphthopyrone from an endophytic fungal isolate of *Penicillium* sp. *Magnetic Resonance in Chemistry* 54, 164–167.

- Kellogg, J.J., Todd, D.A., Egan, J.M., Raja, H.A., Oberlies, N.H., Kvalheim, O.M., Cech, N.B., 2016. Biochemometrics for Natural Products Research: Comparison of Data Analysis Approaches and Application to Identification of Bioactive Compounds. *J. Nat. Prod.* doi:10.1021/acs.jnatprod.5b01014
- Koo, S., Sutton, D.A., Yeh, W.W., Thompson, E.H., Sigler, L., Shearer, J.F., Hofstra, D.E., Wickes, B.L., Marty, F.M., 2012. Invasive *Mycoleptodiscus* fungal cellulitis and myositis. *Medical mycology* 50, 740–745.
- Kusari, S., Pandey, S.P., Spiteller, M., 2013. Untapped mutualistic paradigms linking host plant and endophytic fungal production of similar bioactive secondary metabolites. *Phytochemistry* 91, 81–87.
- Lou, J., Fu, L., Peng, Y., Zhou, L., 2013. Metabolites from *Alternaria* fungi and their bioactivities. *Molecules* 18, 5891–5935.
- Nisa, H., Kamili, A.N., Nawchoo, I.A., Shafi, S., Shameem, N., Bandh, S.A., 2015. Fungal endophytes as prolific source of phytochemicals and other bioactive natural products: A review. *Microbial pathogenesis* 82, 50–59.
- Pugh, N.D., Jackson, C.R., Pasco, D.S., 2013. Total bacterial load within *Echinacea purpurea*, determined using a new PCR-based quantification method, is correlated with LPS levels and in vitro macrophage activity. *Planta medica* 79, 9.
- Raistrick, H., Stickings, C., Thomas, R., 1953. Studies in the biochemistry of micro-organisms. 90. Alternariol and alternariol monomethyl ether, metabolic products of *Alternaria tenuis*. *Biochemical Journal* 55, 421.
- Raja, H.A., Kaur, A., El-Elmat, T., Figueroa, M., Kumar, R., Deep, G., Agarwal, R., Faeth, S.H., Cech, N.B., Oberlies, N.H., 2015. Phylogenetic and chemical diversity of fungal endophytes isolated from *Silybum marianum* (L) Gaertn.(milk thistle). *Mycology* 6, 8–27.
- Santagata, S., Xu, Y., Wijeratne, E.K., Kontnik, R., Rooney, C., Perley, C.C., Kwon, H., Clardy, J., Kesari, S., Whitesell, L., 2011. Using the heat-shock response to discover anticancer compounds that target protein homeostasis. *ACS chemical biology* 7, 340–349.

- Scazzocchio, F., Cometa, M., Tomassini, L., Palmery, M., 2001. Antibacterial activity of *Hydrastis canadensis* extract and its major isolated alkaloids. *Planta medica* 67, 561–564.
- Schoch, C.L., Robbertse, B., Robert, V., Vu, D., Cardinali, G., Irinyi, L., Meyer, W., Nilsson, R.H., Hughes, K., Miller, A.N., 2014. Finding needles in haystacks: linking scientific names, reference specimens and molecular data for Fungi. Database 2014, bau061.
- Shivas, R., Yu, Y., 2009. A taxonomic re-assessment of *Colletotrichum acutatum*, introducing *C. fioriniae* comb. et stat. nov. and *C. simmondsii* sp. nov. *Fungal Diversity* 39, 111.
- Stierle, A., Strobel, G., Stierle, D., 1993. Taxol and taxane production by *Taxomyces andreanae*, an endophytic fungus of Pacific yew. *Science* 260, 214–216.
- Strobel, G.A., 2003. Endophytes as sources of bioactive products. *Microbes and infection* 5, 535–544.
- Suryanarayanan, T., Thirunavukkarasu, N., Govindarajulu, M., Sasse, F., Jansen, R., Murali, T., 2009. Fungal endophytes and bioprospecting. *Fungal Biology Reviews* 23, 9–19.
- Takamatsu, S., Kim, Y.-P., Hayashi, M., Hiraoka, H., Natori, M., Komiyama, K., Omura, S., 1996. Macrophelide, a Novel Inhibitor of Cell-cell Adhesion Molecule. II. Physicochemical Properties and Structural Elucidation. *The Journal of antibiotics* 49, 95–98.
- Todd, D.A., Gullledge, T.V., Britton, E.R., Oberhofer, M., Leyte-Lugo, M., Moody, A.N., Shymanovich, T., Grubbs, L.F., Juzumaite, M., Graf, T.N., 2015. Ethanolic *Echinacea purpurea* extracts contain a mixture of cytokine-suppressive and cytokine-inducing compounds, including some that originate from endophytic bacteria. *PloS one* 10, e0124276.
- Udayanga, D., Castlebury, L.A., Rossman, A.Y., Chukeatirote, E., Hyde, K.D., 2014. Insights into the genus *Diaporthe*: phylogenetic species delimitation in the *D. eres* species complex. *Fungal Diversity* 67, 203–229.

- U'Ren, J.M., Lutzoni, F., Miadlikowska, J., Laetsch, A.D., Arnold, A.E., 2012. Host and geographic structure of endophytic and endolichenic fungi at a continental scale. *American Journal of Botany* 99, 898–914.
- Wheeler, M., Stipanovic, R., Puckhaber, L., 1999. Phytotoxicity of equisetin and epi-equisetin isolated from *Fusarium equiseti* and *F. pallidoroseum*. *Mycological research* 103, 967–973.
- Woudenberg, J., Groenewald, J., Binder, M., Crous, P., 2013. *Alternaria* redefined. *Studies in Mycology* 75, 171–212.



## APPENDIX A

### SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

**Table 3. Bioactivity of Fungal Extracts against *S.aureus* at 20 µg/mL and 200 µg/mL (expressed as mass of extract per volume of assay well).**

G#	OTU identification	20µg/mL <sup>a</sup>	200µg/mL
G09	<i>Diaporthe eres</i>	62 (± 13)	99 (± 0.6)
G10	<i>Diaporthe</i> sp.	N.I.	N.I.
G11	Sordariomycete sp. (Xylariales)	N.I.	N.I.
G12	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	N.I.	N.I.
G13	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	98 (± 1.7)	100 (± 3.0)
G14	<i>Diaporthe eres</i>	N.I.	94 (± 4.0)
G15	<i>Diaporthe eres</i>	N.I.	99 (± 0.5)
G16	<i>Diaporthe</i> sp.	57 (± 33)	99 (± 1.2)
G17	<i>Diaporthe</i> sp.	60 (± 5.3)	98 (± 1.1)
G22	<i>Phoma</i> sp.	56 (± 5.6)	99 (± 0.4)
G23	<i>Magnaporthales</i> sp.	33 (± 12)	98 (± 0.3)
G28	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	100 (± 1.2)	100 (± 2.0)
G29	<i>Diaporthe</i> sp.	67 (± 5.5)	90 (± 0.9)
G30	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	58 (± 19)	74 (± 25)
G31	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	100 (± 1.1)	100 (± 3.4)
G33	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	3.8 (± 29)	100 (± 2.3)
G34	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	N.I.	N.I.
G35	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	38 (± 15)	60.8 (± 40)
G36	<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	100 (± 0.4)	100 (± 2.7)
G38	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	N.I.	100 (± 2.1)
G39	<i>Colletotrichum fioriniae</i>	16 (± 1.1)	100 (± 1.0)
G41	<i>Pyrenochaeta</i> sp.	73 (± 4.6)	73 (± 10)
G42	Sordariomycete sp. (Xylariales)	36 (± 26)	35 (± 19)

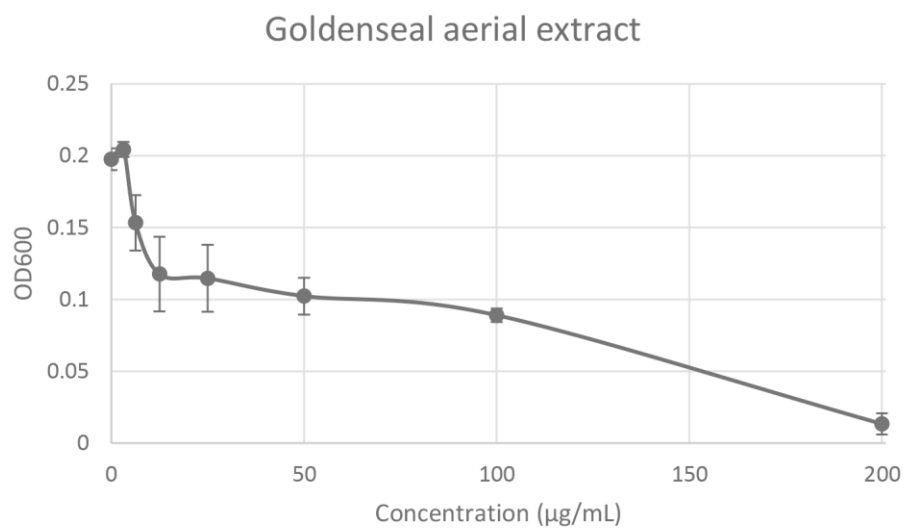
a. The known antimicrobial alkaloid berberine served as positive control for these experiments and demonstrated an MIC of 75-150ppm, consistent with literature(Amin et al., 1969; Čerňáková and Košťálová, 2002).

**Table 4. Compounds from *H. canadensis* Endophytic Fungi with Reported Biological Activity Indicated.**

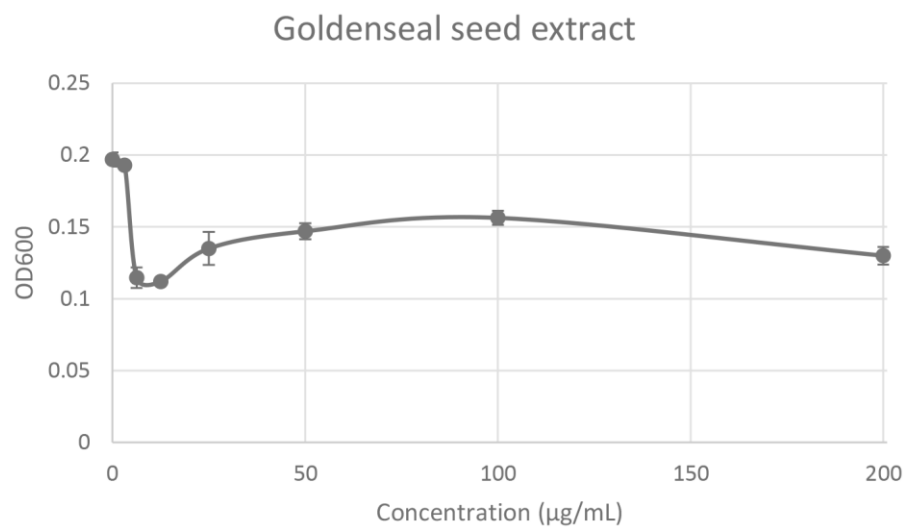
Compound Name	Reported Activity	Found In <sup>a</sup>	Isolation <sup>a</sup>	Bioactivity
Alternariol (1)	Antimicrobial	G15	(Raistrick et al., 1953)	(Raistrick et al., 1953)
Alternariol monomethyl ether (2)	Antimicrobial/ Mycotoxin	G13,G31	(Bensassi et al., 2011)	(Lou et al., 2013)
5'-epiequisetin (3)	Phytotoxin	G52	(Wheeler et al., 1999)	(Wheeler et al., 1999)
Equisetin (4)	Gram + Antimicrobial	G12,G52	((Burmeister et al., 1974)	(Burmeister et al., 1974; Wheeler et al., 1999)
10,11-Dehydrocurvularin (5)	HSF1 inhibitor	G36	(Hyeon et al., 1976)	(Santagata et al., 2011)
Macrosphelide A (6)	Antibiotic	G41	(Takamatsu et al., 1996)	(Takamatsu et al., 1996)
Cordypyridone A (7)	Erythropoietin Inducer	G16	(Cai et al., 1999)	(Cai et al., 1999)
Sch 52901 (8)	Cytotoxic	G33	(Chu et al., 1995)	(Chu et al., 1995)
Sch 52900 (9)	Cytotoxic	G35	(Chu et al., 1995)	(Chu et al., 1995)
Verticillin A (10)	Cytotoxic/ Gram + Antimicrobial	G35	(Katagiri et al., 1970)	(Katagiri et al., 1970)
Aurofusarin (11)	Mycotoxin	G12,G30, G34,G38	(Dvorska et al., 2002)	(Dvorska et al., 2002)

- a. Compounds 1-7 were identified by isolation and structure elucidation, while compounds 8-11 were identified by comparison with a library of LC-MS data (El-Elimat et al., 2013b).

**Figure 3. Antimicrobial Activity of a Goldenseal Leaf Extract against *Staphylococcus aureus*.**



**Figure 4. Antimicrobial Activity of Goldenseal Seed Extract against *Staphylococcus aureus*.**



**Figure 5. Antimicrobial Activity of Alternariol Monomethylether against *Staphylococcus aureus*.**

